

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECTBOARD
MINUTES

Date: May 10, 2022

Time: 10:00am

Place: Via Zoom Meeting & Town Hall
Egremont

Present at the meeting in person were Selectboard members Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie, Board of Health Chairman and Moderator Stephen Cohen.

Present via zoom were Mary McGurn, Fred Gordon, Peg McDonough, Jared Kelly, Richard Allen.

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

REORGANIZATION:

The Board voted unanimously to not make changes in the organization of the Board: George McGurn will remain Chairman, Lucinda Vermeulen will remain Vice-Chairman and Mary Brazie will remain Secretary.

MINUTES:

The Board approved, with minor edits, the minutes of the April 25, May 3 and May 4, 2022 meeting minutes.

COVID:

The Board discussed with Board of Health Chairman Chuck Ogden the proposed Egremont Municipal COVID Mitigation Plan. Cases are increasing as are hospitalizations. After a great deal of debate it was decided to not adopt the Plan. Chairmen McGurn and Ogden will work on a joint public service announcement urging vaccination and to go out Thursday after the Board of Health meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Planning Board has drafted a press release to announce the Egremont Vision 2035 initiative, to update the Master Plan (now to be known as the Comprehensive Plan) and the Open Space & Recreation Plan. The press release also asks for Egremont volunteers to be a part of the planning process. The draft was debated and it was agreed that George will edit his quote to include a reference to the Municipal Vulnerability Plan's work on climate change, and then Mary Brazie and Jared Kelly will distribute the press release.

Housing Committee Chairman Fred Gordon asked for the Board's approval on a press release announcing the release of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for housing on the town's lot near Town Hall. The Board felt that with the legal notice required for publication of the RFP no press release was needed.

Town meeting has approved the formation of a Water Department Study Group to look at the consider infrastructure, governance, and ownership options of the Department. The Board agreed to ask if Tom Berkel would serve as the Finance Committee representative. Further discussion will take place at the next Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

The French Park Fund has a quote for Pickleball Courts and a portion of the funding with promises for the additional funding needed. The Courts will be constructed by the Fund and not the Town as was the Tennis Courts. The Selectboard, as the Trustees of French Park, voted unanimously to authorize the Fund moving forward with the installation of the courts.

GRANTS:

It has been determined that the application for funds under the One Stop For Growth grant program cannot move forward for infrastructure funds for the Housing Committee as the Town is not actually building the housing.

ARPA Administrator Peg McDonough presented details regarding the MA Downtown Initiative under the One Stop For Growth grant program to obtain funds to look at underutilized properties, both public and private. It was ultimately voted unanimously by the Board to not move forward with a grant application.

Peg McDonough reported the Committee for the Community Health Inclusion grant to look at accessibility to Prospect Lake has completed its task. The final report will be drafted soon and final payment of the funds requested.

Peg McDonough said there were no current updated for the ARPA funds.

Peg McDonough reported that a walk through of the forest lands in French Park is being conducted on May 17 to make final plans for a grant application under the Forest Stewardship Program. This grant application may include tree removal as well as invasive plants removal.

FOLLOW UPS:

The demand for payment of the full FY 22 Fire Services Fee has been sent to Mount Washington via certified mail and has been received.

SELECTBOARD ITEMS:

The next meeting of the Board will be May 17, 2022 at 10am. Just prior to the Board meeting, the Finance Committee Appointing Committee will meet to re-appoint one member of the current Finance Committee. Laura Allen has asked to be re-appointed. A vacancy will be left on the Committee by another member not seeking re-appointment. That vacancy will be filled later. The Selectboard representatives to the appointing committee will be George McGurn and Mary Braize. The Finance Committee representatives will be Frank Penglase and Dan Blitzer. Moderator Stephen Cohen is also a part of the Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 11:52am

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.22/may10

The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.